



Attorney L. et No: 1062RCE/T180

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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

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Grace Alicea

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Date: February 20, 2003

Eric C. Anderson

Serial No. 09/177,251

Group Art Unit: 2615

Filed: October 22, 1998

Examiner: Harris, Tia M.

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING IMAGE QUALITY OF
PORTRAIT IMAGES USING A FOCUS ZONE SHIFT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAR 03 2003

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application in the following manner:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- Subcl 1*
- ✓ 1. (Twice amended) A method for capturing an image using an image capture device, the image capable of including a plurality of objects, each of the plurality of objects being a corresponding distance from the imaging device, the image being associated with a focus zone, method comprising the steps of:
- (a) determining if the image matches at least one criteria;
 - (b) determining whether at least one of the plurality of objects is out of focus if the